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which he was envious); press censorship; the Index; new books; notable translations; the appearance of editions so precious to-day as to be embalmed in Brunet and Graesse.

One gets vivid impressions in reading these letters. How different the middle years of the seventeenth century from those of the sixteenth! Patin records under November 23, 1653: "Le comte d'Alais, par ci-devant gouverneur de Provence, est ici mort le 13 de novembre. Il est le dernier de la race des Valois." And four years later he writes: "Voilà la race éteinte des Châtillons par cinq chefs depuis 1572, lors que l'amiral de Châtillon fut tué cruellement et proditoirement avec plusieurs autres le 24 août, fête de St.-Barthélemy." The Age of Louis XIV. is just beginning. Already the court life, with its pompous etiquette borrowed from Spain, has become "une superbe servitude toute pleine de calamités, de travail et de misères; la cour a fait le bonheur d'un petit nombre d'hommes alors qu'elle en a perdu un grand nombre" (p. 264).

The editor's preface, which is brief, is biographical and bibliographical. The last complete edition of Patin's letters was in 1846. M. Brette says it was imperfect (p. x). It is to be regretted, though, that he did not borrow a hint from that edition and add the wealth of historical and literary notes which that included. M. Champion's introduction, excellent as it is, hardly atones for the omission.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

Types of Naval Officers drawn from the History of the British Navy; with some Account of the Conditions of Naval Warfare at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century and of Subsequent Development during the Sail Period. By ALFRED T. MAHAN, LL.D., D.C.L. New Revised Edition. (Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1901. Pp. xiv, 500.)

IN so far as Captain Mahan's new book can be regarded as a whole, it may be described as an essay in naval pathology. Four of the six biographical studies which it contains were originally contributed apparently as isolated papers to the *Atlantic Monthly*, and have now been republished, with modifications and additions. Traces of their origin still appear; but an introduction characterized by all the depth and breadth of thought which we expect from Captain Mahan has bound them into a homogeneous series of illustrations of the main theme there expounded.

It is of the diseases which a navy is liable to develop that the introduction treats—and above all of the disease of formalism, that kind of superstitious reverence for the means, which tends to bring the end into oblivion. In the naval art it leads directly to strategical blindness, to tactical rigidity, and to the habit of relying on rules, till all power of initiative is atrophied and is replaced in action by a dread of responsibility that is barely to be distinguished from cowardice. From a season of lusty health, fertile of new and vigorous ideas, which is usually taken to

have begun about the middle of the seventeenth century, the British navy had been gradually sinking about the beginning of the eighteenth into one of these periods of disease. The line of battle which had been designed to give to a fleet tactical flexibility had become a fetish that cramped it like a "straight jacket." For fear of breaking some rule, commanders could no longer bring themselves to seize the advantage of their opponents' mistakes; the unexpected by which most great battles and great campaigns have been won was no longer in their armory; they hardly dared risk a ship for any drastic movement; decisive action became impossible and naval warfare was at a deadlock. In a detailed and lucid study of the campaigns of Mathews in 1744 and of Byng in 1756, Captain Mahan, with all his old mastery, brings vividly before us the morbid condition which the naval art had reached at its lowest ebb. So grave had the condition of the patient become that we are left with little doubt that an heroic operation was necessary and that, severe remedy as it was, Byng's execution was justified.

In following the author's diagnosis, as he traces the development of the disease, we cannot but regret that his studies of the art of war under sail, for which the world owes him so much, have never been carried back to its commencement in the sixteenth century. He shows us clearly the gravest aspect of the disease—how the line of battle in its morbid state of osseous rigidity prevented concentration on a part of the enemy's force, without which a decisive victory is impossible, and how this state of things gradually gave way under the healing influences of the great admirals that preceded Nelson. But in all this we feel a sense of incompleteness when we remember that in the earliest days of sailing tactics the leading and even the sole idea was to concentrate an overwhelming weight of attack upon the weak point of the enemy. It was to this end that the first feeble germ of the line was begotten, as we see it in the action of the English admirals against the Great Armada in 1588 and in the early fighting instructions of Stuart times. This idea of ships following their squadron leaders in succession and concentrating their attack on the weathermost ship or ships of the enemy is clearly dominant as late as 1625, and we cannot but feel that the study of the reappearance of the concentrative idea is incomplete without some reference to its disappearance at a stage in the history of tactics that immediately preceded that of the true line of battle. The actual origin of the line of battle still remains in obscurity; but from scattered hints that survive it may have been devised as a defensive formation against the English method of attack—that is to say, its chief value in the eyes of its originators may have been that it provided a complete answer to the early English system of concentration on the weathermost ships of a "line abreast" or a "squadronal" formation. If this was so, then the formalism which overcame the line of battle should perhaps be regarded not so much as a disease, but as the logical development of its inherent defensive idea, which was necessary and inevitable before a new step forward could be taken. At the same time the exaggerated sensitiveness which admirals of Mathews's

and Byng's type exhibited for preserving their lines would appear more excusable. It is of course possible that further research will show that this was not the actual path of development, but none the less it is a loss that an eye so clear and far-sighted as Captain Mahan's has been hitherto debarred from contemplating the whole field from this more distant point of view.

Having prepared the way by placing us in possession of the evil which had to be remedied, the author presents his six biographies as illustrations of the various kinds of medicines which are necessary to restore health to a body so diseased. Each officer dealt with is taken as the type of a quality that was lacking, and each is made to take his place in the great healing process which eventually gave Nelson his invincible weapon. Nelson himself, as the man who used the perfected organism and had but little to do with its growth, is omitted. Nor does Hood find a place, though it is clear that Captain Mahan considers that it was only lack of opportunity that prevented his occupying a niche beside Nelson's own. Hawke, who is taken as the type of the "spirit"—the determination to fight and crush—which had been starved away, is given a higher place than he has ever been honored with before by an authoritative writer and it must be said Captain Mahan fairly justifies his judgment. Rodney, who is usually regarded as the father of the later tactics, is given less credit than ever in that direction, but receives new rank as the type of "form," by which is meant the discipline and coherence, the self-respect and dignity of the service.

The remaining four biographies, which were those not originally written for the present work, fit less nicely into the scheme. There is a certain awkwardness in choosing Howe as the type of a tactician and Jervis as that of a disciplinarian and strategist. Their qualities overlap too much nor is there any obvious relation between discipline and strategy. Again, it seems forcing matters to take Pellew as the type of a partizan officer when Dundonald exists. Still this study and that of Saumarez have a peculiar interest as being less familiar and showing us the process of development from the inside as it were, and further as emphasizing the important influence of minor officers on the general advance.

It is perhaps also due to the fact that some of the biographies were written originally for a different purpose that we notice here and there lapses from the high level of style which the author maintained in his earlier work. There are descriptive passages where the color is too glaring for the dignity of history. The use of inversions has become excessive and results sometimes in obscurity. In some places expressions occur which as yet only pass current where composition is necessarily hurried. "Howe's arrival antedated the signature of the Declaration of Independence by less than a week," is a phrase hardly sanctioned by good authority, either in America or England, and the same must be said of the use of the word "illustrate" in the sense of to "make illustrious." But if in a work so excellent and full of thought we note these blemishes,

it is only because where a man sits so distinctly at the head of a branch of literature as does Captain Mahan, his disciples cannot endure to see him slip for a moment into a lower position than that in which they delight to honor him. In any case, it may be safely said that nothing so valuable has come from his pen since the publication of his first three volumes on the *Influence of Sea Power*, nor anything of more living and practical suggestion, both for those who have to provide and for those who have to handle a great navy.

JULIAN S. CORBETT.

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and the Growth and Division of the British Empire. 1708-1778. By WALFORD DAVIS GREEN, M.P. [The Heroes of the Nation Series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. xiii, 391.)

THE author of a book intended to form one of a popular series is faced by the difficulty of steering between a too scholarly presentation of the subject on the one hand, and a too elementary recital on the other. Mr. Green cannot be said to have been always successful in avoiding either danger. The many incidental allusions, especially to the lesser personages in politics, and the enumeration of Cabinet changes demand a wide and fairly exhaustive knowledge of English history to make them intelligible; and a very considerable knowledge of European affairs is also taken for granted in treating of the continental wars and intrigues. On the other hand, the story of the conquest of India and of Canada has been so often told that it seems unnecessary to go into the detail given, especially as nothing of note is added. Undoubtedly the task undertaken by Mr. Green is stupendous, as the aim of the series is to present a picture of the national conditions surrounding the hero in his career, and the national conditions surrounding Pitt from 1735 to 1788 involve a history of the whole civilized world. It can therefore hardly be a matter of surprise that the story fails to leave a clear impress on the mind and lacks force and continuity.

Mr. Green has availed himself of the newer historical sources. The publication of the Historical Manuscripts Commission have been freely drawn upon, and Mr. Green has also consulted the Newcastle Papers among the Additional Manuscripts in the British Museum. He acknowledges his indebtedness to the late Professor Tyler for new light on the American Revolution, and German and French writers have not been ignored in regard to the Seven Years' War. The quotation of authorities in foot-notes is commendable, but some exception might be taken to the scantiness of the index.

The value of Mr. Green's book lies in his sympathetic study of the character of the Great Commoner, and in his presentation of the popular minister and great statesman as a member of a most undemocratic and corrupt House of Commons; without the arts of the politician and without any loyal body of followers in Parliament, dominating that body by the force of his intellect and of his enthusiasm, and supported and kept